



CONNECTING & INNOVATING
SINCE 1913

March 28, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Telecommunications and information technology have become integral to delivering efficient, equitable, and affordable services that local governments provide to residents. Economic development flourishes where there is fast, affordable, and reliable access to broadband. Some communities have found the best way of ensuring this access is by taking an active role, whether by working in a partnership with a private entity, deploying conduit and dark fiber, or offering services directly. A recent GAO report, *Telecommunications: Federal Broadband Deployment Programs and Small Business*, notes that Internet service from municipal networks results in more reliable, faster, and less expensive access for small businesses.

As you know, on February 19, 2014, it was announced that the FCC will exercise its authority under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to "enhance Internet access competition." We encourage the Commission to use this authority to remove state legislative barriers limiting local authority to deploy Internet infrastructure. Any decision on these matters should be made at the local level.

Access to fast, reliable, and affordable broadband is essential for economic development, health care, and education for a city. The League of Minnesota Cities, an association of 832 cities in the state, and the over 90 Mayors listed below, encourage the FCC to exercise its full power to remove any restrictions on local authority for a community to decide whether to engage in such an investment.

Signed,

Jim F. Miller
Executive Director
League of Minnesota Cities

Signed:

Nancy A. Adams, Mayor, Pequot Lakes, MN
Bruce Ahlgren, Mayor, Cloquet, MN
Nick Amb, Mayor, Karlstad, MN
Joann Anderson, Mayor, Minnetonka Beach, MN
Robert W. Anderson, Mayor, International Falls, MN
Greg Ardner, Mayor, Mora, MN
Michael Aulie, Mayor, Deerwood, MN
Tim Auringer, Mayor, Eagle Lake, MN
Kip Averill, Mayor, Gilman, MN
Denny Baker, Mayor, Spicer, MN
Lawrence Baker, Mayor, Hill City, MN
Brenda Bartz, Mayor, Browns Valley, MN
Patrick Baustian, Mayor, Luverne, MN
Steve Berkner, Mayor, Ortonville, MN
Robert Beussman, Mayor, New Ulm, MN
Eugene Bies, Mayor, Canby, MN
Bill Blesener, Mayor, Little Canada, MN
Randy Bolen, Mayor, Two Harbors, MN
Bob Byrnes, Mayor, Marshall, MN
Patricia Carlson, Mayor, Braham, MN
Samuel Clark, Mayor, Cromwell, MN
Kevin Crowley, Mayor, Pennock, MN
Dr. Mark D. Dehen, Mayor, North Mankato, MN
Melissa Drange, Mayor, Grove City, MN
Jo Emerson, Mayor, White Bear Lake, MN
Debra Lee Fader, Mayor, Montevideo, MN
Jerome O. Faust, Mayor, St. Anthony Village, MN
Joe Flaherty, Mayor, Mounds View, MN
Fred Froehlich, Mayor, Nicollet, MN
Tony Gabriel, Mayor, Elko New Market, MN
Sheldon Giese, Mayor, Morris, MN
Debbie Goettel, Mayor, Richfield, MN
Jason Goodwin, Mayor, Barnum, MN
Bill Gossman, Mayor, New London, MN
Dana Graham, Mayor, Northfield, MN
Richard Groothuis, Mayor, Maynard, MN
John Grutsch, Mayor, Avon, MN
Jim Guthmiller, Mayor, Lyle, MN
Chris Hallum, Mayor, Rushford, MN
Don Hawk, Mayor, Warba, MN
Dave Jacobsen, Mayor, New Brighton, MN
Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor, Independence, MN
Jean Keogh, Mayor, Montgomery, MN
Tammy Konz, Mayor, Kimball, MN
Michael Kuehn, Mayor, City of North St. Paul, MN
Tom Kuntz, Mayor, Owatonna, MN

Andrea Lauer, Mayor, Royalton, MN
Peter Lindstrom, Mayor, Falcon Heights, MN
Hank Ludtke, Mayor, Frazee, MN
Mary McComber, Mayor, Oak Park Heights, MN
Jeffrey E. McCool, Mayor, West Concord, MN
Timothy Meehl, Mayor, Perham, MN
Todd A. Miller, Mayor, Bethel, MN
Robert Mickus, Mayor, Onamia, MN
Doug Munsch, Mayor, New Auburn, MN
Regan Murphy, Mayor, Robbinsdale, MN
Deb Myrfield, Mayor, Warren, MN
Brad Nauman, Mayor, Buffalo, MN
Joyce Nyhus, Mayor, Buffalo Lake, MN
Greg Ommen, Mayor, Fulda, MN
Greg Osterdyk, Mayor, Carver, MN
Molly Park, Mayor, Sunfish Lake, MN
Christopher Parker, Mayor, Stockton, MN
Joe Perske, Mayor, Sartell, MN
Gary Peterson, Mayor, Columbia Heights, MN
Sandy Peterson, Mayor, Swanville, MN
Tony Peterson, Mayor, Tracy, MN
Dennis Phelps, Mayor, Westbrook, MN
Vern Rasmussen, Jr., Mayor, Albert Lea, MN
Kyle P. Riel, Mayor, Kettle River, MN
John M. Schumann, Mayor, Darfur, MN
Dale Schwanke, Mayor, Rushford Village, MN
Ted Shaw, Mayor, Moose Lake, MN
Dave Smiglewski, Mayor, Granite Falls, MN
Roy Srp, Mayor, Waseca, MN
Susan St. Ores, Mayor, Bayport, MN
Steve Stotko, Mayor, Winsted, MN
Brian Thompson, Mayor, Kerkhoven, MN
Mike Troumbly, Mayor, Taconite, MN
John Tuorila, Mayor, Calumet, MN
Ray Urban, Mayor, Biscay, MN
JoAnn Weaver, Mayor, Breezy Point, MN
Jim Weikum, Mayor, Biwabik, MN
Paul Whitcomb, Mayor, Princeton, MN
Mark Windschitl, Mayor, Chaska, MN
Aaron Lee Wittnebel, Mayor, Lake Park, MN
Ben Woessner, Mayor, Pelican Rapids, MN
Wayne Wolden, Mayor, Wadena, MN
Marlene A. Young, Mayor, Annandale, MN
John Zannmiller, Mayor, West St Paul, MN
Peter Zimmerman, Mayor, Howard Lake, MN